

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 23, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 3, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 19, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 705

Introduced by Assembly Member Blumenfield
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Eggman, Fox, and Logue)

February 21, 2013

An act to amend Section 2736.5 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to healing arts.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 705, as amended, Blumenfield. Combat to Care Act.

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of various healing arts professions and vocations by boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs. Existing law requires boards within the department to adopt rules and regulations to provide for methods of evaluating education, training, and experience obtained in the armed services, if applicable to the requirements of the business, occupation, or profession regulated, and to specify how this education, training, and experience may be used to meet the licensure requirements for the particular business, occupation, or profession regulated. Existing law, the Nursing Practice Act, provides for the licensure and regulation of registered nurses by the Board of Registered Nursing.

Existing law requires applicants for licensure as a registered nurse to meet certain educational requirements, to have completed specified courses of instruction, and to not be subject to denial of licensure under specified circumstances. Existing law authorizes applicants who have

served on active duty in the medical corps in the United States Armed Forces to submit a record of specified training to the board for evaluation in order to satisfy the courses of instruction requirement. Under existing law, if the applicant satisfies the other general licensure requirements and if the board determines that his or her education establishes competency to practice registered nursing, the applicant shall be granted a license upon passing a certain examination.

This bill would provide that this act shall be known, and may be cited, as the Combat to Care Act and would make various legislative findings and declarations, including that California recognizes that military service members gain skill and experience while serving the country that, upon discharge, can be translated to the civilian world. The bill would require the Board of Registered Nursing ~~to adopt regulations that, by regulation and in conjunction with the Military Department, to identify the Armed Forces education, training, and or experience that is equivalent or transferable to coursework the curriculum required for licensure by the board.~~ ~~This~~ The bill would require the board, after evaluating a military applicant's education, training, ~~and or~~ experience, to provide the applicant with a list of the coursework, *if any*, he or she must still complete to be eligible for licensure *and to grant the applicant, if he or she meets specified criteria, a license upon passing the standard examination. The bill would require the board to attempt to contact military service members who may meet the bill's criteria and would authorize the board to enter into an agreement with the federal government in that regard. The bill would require the board to maintain records of applicants, as specified.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the
- 2 Combat to Care Act.
- 3 SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:
- 4 (a) President Barack Obama signed the Veteran Skills to Jobs
- 5 Act, authored by former California State Senator Jeff Denham,
- 6 which directs federal licensing authorities to consider and accept
- 7 military experience and training for the purposes of satisfying the
- 8 requirements for licensure.

1 (b) In signing the Veterans Skills to Jobs Act, President Obama
2 declared that “No veteran who fought for our nation overseas
3 should have to fight for a job when they return home.”

4 (c) The Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse
5 University found that, since 2001, more than 2.8 million military
6 personnel have made the transition from military to civilian life
7 and another one million service members will make this transition
8 over the next five years.

9 (d) California is home to the largest veteran population in the
10 country, with approximately 2 million veterans, and is expected
11 to welcome home 30,000 more annually.

12 (e) California recognizes that military service members gain
13 skills and experience while serving our country that, upon
14 discharge, can be translated to the civilian world.

15 (f) Last year the Governor signed into law Assembly Bill 2659
16 (Ch. 406, Stats. 2012) to help veterans with military commercial
17 motor vehicle driving experience transfer those skills into civilian
18 life. This act is part of California’s ongoing effort to streamline
19 veterans into viable careers after military service.

20 SEC. 3. Section 2736.5 of the Business and Professions Code
21 is amended to read:

22 2736.5. (a) Any person who has served on active duty in the
23 medical corps of any of the Armed Forces of the United States and
24 who has successfully completed the course of education, training,
25 ~~and~~ *or* experience required to qualify him or her for rating as a
26 medical service technician—independent duty, or other equivalent
27 rating in his or her particular branch of the Armed Forces, and
28 whose service in the Armed Forces has been under honorable
29 conditions, may submit the record of that education, training, ~~and~~
30 *or* experience to the board for evaluation ~~towards~~ *toward* licensure.

31 (b) After making an evaluation pursuant to subdivision (a), the
32 board shall provide an applicant with a list of coursework, if any,
33 that the applicant must complete to be eligible for licensure.

34 (c) If an applicant meets the qualifications of subdivision (a)
35 and paragraphs (1) and (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 2736, and
36 if the board determines that his or her education, training, ~~and~~ *or*
37 experience would give reasonable assurance of competence to
38 practice as a registered nurse in this state, he or she shall be granted
39 a license upon passing the standard examination for licensure.

1 (d) The board shall, by regulation, establish criteria for
2 evaluating the education, training, ~~and or~~ experience of applicants
3 under this section.

4 (e) On or before January 1, 2015, the board shall, by regulation
5 *and in conjunction with the Military Department*, identify the
6 Armed Forces education, training, ~~and or~~ experience that is
7 equivalent or transferable to ~~coursework~~ *the curriculum* required
8 for licensure by the board.

9 (f) The board shall maintain records of the following categories
10 of applicants under this section:

11 (1) Applicants who are rejected for examination and the areas
12 of those applicants' preparation that are the causes of rejection.

13 (2) Applicants who are qualified by their military education,
14 training, ~~and or~~ experience alone to take the examination, and the
15 results of their examinations.

16 (3) Applicants who are qualified to take the examination by
17 their military education, training, ~~and or~~ experience plus
18 supplementary education, and the results of their examinations.

19 (g) The board shall attempt to contact by mail or other means
20 individuals meeting the requirements of subdivision (a) who have
21 been or will be discharged or separated from the Armed Forces of
22 the United States, in order to inform them of the application
23 procedure provided by this section. The board may enter into an
24 agreement with the federal government in order to secure the names
25 and addresses of those individuals.